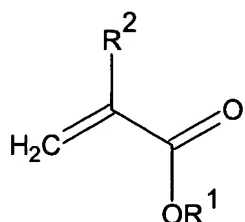


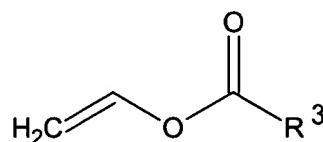
COPY OF ALL CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer obtained by free-radical polymerization of a monomer mixture consisting essentially of

- a) 80 to 20% by weight of a mixture of hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl(meth)acrylate and, ~~optionally~~, one or more compounds of the formula (A) or (B)



(A)



(B)

with R¹ = H, C₁-C₆-alkyl,

R² = H, CH₃,

R³ = C₁-C₂₄-alkyl,

or mixtures thereof,

wherein the content of hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl(meth)acrylate in % by weight in

a) is at least as large as the combined content of the compounds (A) and

(B) in % by weight,

in the presence of

- b) 20 to 80% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and
c) ~~optionally~~ 0 to 20% by weight of other polymerizable compounds (C), ~~at~~

~~least one other polymerizable monomer~~ selected from the group
consisting of acrylic and methacrylic acids, ~~are~~ crotonic acid, mono(C₁-
C₈)-alkyl maleates, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid,
(meth)acrylonitrile, ethylenically unsaturated di(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl ~~(di(C₁-C₂₂)-~~
~~alkyl~~ dicarboxylates, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids or sulfonic
acid derivatives, acyclic N-vinylcarboxamides and N-vinylactams.

2. (original) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the free-radical polymerization is an emulsion polymerization.
3. (previously presented) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in
claim 1, wherein hydroxyethyl methacrylate is employed as hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl
(meth)acrylate.
4. (currently amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (A) are selected from the group
consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl ~~methyl~~ acrylate, methyl acrylate, and ~~or~~
mixtures thereof.
5. (currently amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (B) are selected from the group
consisting of C₃-C₂₄-vinyl esters.

6. (previously presented) A process for preparing water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers as claimed in claim 1 by free-radical polymerization in an aqueous or nonaqueous but water-miscible solvent or in mixed nonaqueous/aqueous solvents.
7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polymerization takes place in the presence of from 30 to 55% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol.
8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1 as coating agent, binder and/or film-forming excipient.
9. (canceled)